

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KHARTO 00100 111242Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /089 W

-----111254Z 004083 /43

R 111220Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3365

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EGEN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S JANUARY FACE THE NATION SPEECH

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. IN HIS JANUARY FACE THE NATION SPEECH TELEVISED JAN 10, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI CONCENTRATED ON DOMESTIC ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, MOST NOTEWORTHY FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW WAS HIS FAILURE TO MENTION ETHIOPIA. WITHOUT EXPLICITLY IDENTIFYING THEM, HE WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF LIBYA, USSR AND ANSAR REBELS. IN THINLY VIELED REFERENCES HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE CONSIDERS SOVIETS, LIBYANS AND ANSARS TO BE WORKING TOGETHER WITH AIM OF OVERTHROWING GOS. NIMEIRI WARNED THAT IF SUDAN DECISIVELY DEFEATED ATTEMPT AT INVASION LAST JULY NEXT TIME IT WILL NOT WAIT FOR INVASION BUT WILL ROUT OUT ANY SNK GN OF IT BEFORE IT PENETRATES HOMELAND.

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 00100 111242Z

HE SAID SUDAN, WHICH HAS NEVER ATTACKED OTHERS AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN PEACEFUL, CAN DEFEAT ANY AGGRESSION DIRECTED AGAINST IT.

2. NIMEIRI ANNOUNCED SEVERAL MEASURES TO REDUCE COST OF KEY CONSUMER ITEMS. HE INDICATED COST OF SUGAR, LOCALLY PRODUCED TEXTILES AND RENTS WILL BE CUT. HE ALSO ANNOUNED

REDUCTIONS IN CERTAIN TARIFFS AND OTHER MEASURES WHICH SHOULD RESULT IN LOWER PRICES FOR DRUGS, SHOES AND POWDERED MILK. HE SAID KHARTOUM BUS FARES WOULD BE REDUCED. IN CONNECTION WITH RAPID RISE OF PRICES FOR CONSUMER GOODS, NIMEIRI SAID SUDANESE SHOULD EMULATE AMERICANS, AND PROCEEDED TO DESCRIBE IN FAVORABLE TERMS COFFEE BOYCOTT IN US. NIMEIRI ALSO ANNOUNED INCREASE IN DEVELOPMENT TAX WHICH WILL INCREASE COST OF CERTAIN LOCALLY MANUFACTURED GOODS AND SELECTED IMPORTED ITEMS.

3. IN ADDITION TO THESE MEASURES NIMEIRI ANNOUNED PRIVATE FOOTBALL (SOCCER) CLUBS WHICH HAD BEEN CLOSED EARLIER THIS YEAR WILL BE ALLOWED REOPEN, ALTHOUGH IT CLEAR THEY WILL BE UNDER GREATER SUPERVISION OF SSU. FINALLY, NIMEIRI SAID EGYPTIANS WILL NO LONGER REQUIRE ENTRY VISAS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

4. COMMENT: NIMEIRI'S CRITICISM OF LIBYANS AND SOVIETS IS THEME HE HAS STRESSED CONTINUALLY SINCE LATE JULY. HIS FAILURE TO ATTACK ETHIOPIA SUGGESTS HE NOW WISHES CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF PROBLEMS QUIETLY THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS AND APPEARS TO BE IN RESPONSE TO ETHIOPIAN OFFICIAL STATEMENT SUGGESTING THAT MATTER BE HANDLED THIS WAY. NIMEIRI'S ANNOUNCEMENTS OF MEASURES TO REDUCE COST OF LIVING HAVE BEEN WARMLY RECEIVED, MAKING SPEECH EASILY MOST POPULAR HE HAS MADE SINCE JULY COUP ATTEMPT. NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER, HOW VARIOUS MEASURES WILL AFFECT OVERALL ECONOMY OF COUNTRY. CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 00100 111242Z

OUR INITIAL REACTION IS THAT, ON BALANCE, GOVERNMENT INCOME IS LIKELY REMAIN ABOUT SAME. EMBASSY HAS NOT YET HAD OPPORTUNITY SEE COMPLETE TEXT OF SPEECH. WILL REPORT ANY ADDITIONAL DETAILS IF NECESSARY. BREWR

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NATIONAL SECURITY, SPHERE OF INFLUENCE, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, COMMODITIES, SPEECHES, PRICES  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, EGEN, SU, LY, UR, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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